

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
EB-08 CG-00 DOTE-00 IO-13 COME-00 OES-07 SIG-03
/105 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:FTUMMINIA:DOD/FMRA:JREINERTSON (DRAFT)
APPROVED BY ARA:SSHELTON
ARA/CAR:AH EWITT
PM:CCORDER
EUR/NE:JSHUMATE
EUR/WE:JDOBBINS
EUR/CAN:JROUSE
EUR/NE:DDONCHI
EUR/CE:ELAUDERDALE (PHONE)
EUR/NE:WNEWLIN
ARA/MEX:PSTORING
COAST GUARD: CMDR HERBERT (DRAFT)
-----096732 230352Z /61

P 222120Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 074149

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TD, UK, FR, CA, NO, GW, NL, MX

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SUBJECT: OMEGA TRINIDAD

REF: (A) STATE 043187 (B) OSLO 1140 (C) MEXICO 3584,3704

1. NORWEGIAN DEMARCHE TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO REPRESENTATIVE AT UNITED NATIONS MARCH 7 (REFTEL B) WAS UNDOUBTEDLY HELPFUL IN PRODUCING THE FIRST SIGN THAT

GOTT IS RECONSIDERING ITS PREVIOUSLY NEGATIVE POSITION ON OMEGA AGREEMENT. DURING FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH GOTT FM DONALDSON MARCH 13, AMB FOX WAS ASKED TO PROVIDE: (A) INFO REGARDING MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZATION AND CONTROL OF OMEGA TRINIDAD AS COMPARED WITH OTHER STATIONS IN THE NETWORK, AND (B) CONFIRMATION THAT ANY AGREEMENT ON OMEGA WOULD CONTAIN ASSURANCES THAT A MEASURE OF PROTECTION WOULD BE AFFORDED TRINIDAD IN THE EVENT OF GENERAL HOSTILITIES TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF IT BECOMING A MILITARY TARGET.

2. AMEMBASSY OSLO MAY CONVEY TO MFA DEPARTMENT'S APPRECIATION FOR ITS PROMPT AND USEFUL SUPPORT.

3. TO PROVIDE FURTHER IMPETUS TOWARD FAVORABLE GOTT DECISION, ACTION ADDEES (LESS OSLO) SHOULD MAKE OR FOLLOW-UP EARLIER DEMARCHES REQUESTED REFTTEL A, URGE THAT ADDITIONAL APPROACHES TO GOTT BE MADE SOONEST TO REINFORCE NORWEGIAN APPROACH, AND REPORT MFA RESPONSES.

4. FOR MEXICO CITY: IN RESPONSE REFTTEL (C), WE BELIEVE GOTT CONCERNS ARE BASICALLY POLITICAL. OPPOSITION PARTY HAS RAISED THIS ISSUE ONCE BEFORE IN PARLIAMENT AND PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS RELUCTANT TO OPEN ITSELF TO THE CHARGE THAT THE OMEGA AGREEMENT REPRESENTS A CONTINUATION IN DIFFERENT FORM OF THE NOW-EXPIRED WEST INDIES
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DEFENSE AREAS AGREEMENT, UNDER WHICH THE U.S. OPERATED MILITARY FACILITIES IN TRINIDAD FOR SEVERAL YEARS. EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN OVER OMEGA CLOSING FROM THIRD COUNTRIES ARE DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO GOTT SENSITIVITIES, AS EVIDENCE OF INTERNATIONAL RATHER THAN MERELY U.S. INTEREST IN OMEGA SYSTEM AND AS USEFUL POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR A FAVORABLE DECISION.

5. FOR PORT-OF-SPAIN INFO A AND B IN PARAGRAPH 1 WILL BE SENT TO EMBASSY IN SEPTTEL. VANCE

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NNN

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